

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

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R 222105Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5121

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCSO

JCS WASHDC

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASFY BUENOS AIRES

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 2589

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, US, UY

SUBJECT: CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAN ARMIES

1. DURING A LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST ON AUGUST 17, URUGUAYAN ARMY CINC GENERAL CHIAPPE TOLD ME THAT HE HAD INFORMATION THAT THERE WOULD BE AN ATTEMPT MADE IN CARACAS NEXT MONTH TO ISOLATE THE U.S. AND PUT US ON THE DEFENSIVE AT THE CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAN ARMIES. HE SAID U.S. REPRESENTATIVES MIGHT HAVE A DIFFICULT TIME AS WE HAVE FEW SUPPORTERS LEFT IN SOUTH AMERICA AND IMPLIED THAT WE WOULD DO WELL ALWAYS TO KEEP GOOD FRIENDS LIKE URUGUAY IN MIND.

2. TODAY'S (AUG 22) EL PAIS PUBLISHED AN EDITORIAL WHICH STATES THAT ARGENTINA AND PERU HAVE DISAGREED WITH THE PROPOSED AGENDA OF THE MEETING OF ARMY CHIEFS IN CARACAS AND THAT THE TWO WOULD PRESENT A COUNTERPROPOSAL TO THE EFFECT THAT IT IS TIME TO GO BEYOND THE STRICTLY PROFESSIONAL OR TECHNICAL MILITARY MATTERS TO ISSUES OF CONTINENTAL CONCERN. ACCORDING TO EL PAIS, THE ARGENTINES AND PERUVIANS WOULD ARGUE THAT THE COLD WAR IS OVER, THAT INTERNATIONAL

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SECURITY PROPOSALS SHOULD NOT BE AT THE SERVICE OF ONE POWER AND

THAT THE TIME HAS COME TO FACE NOT ONLY ANY EVENTUAL MILITARY AGGRESSION BUT ALSO ECONOMIC AGGRESSION AND IDEOLOGICAL INFLUENCES WHICH AFFECT NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE. BOTH ARGENTINA AND PERU CONSIDER INTERNAL SECURITY TO BE THE EXCLUSIVE CONCERN OF EACH NATION BUT ACCORDING TO EL PAIS ARGENTINE SOURCES INDICATE THAT THE ARGENTINES WILL WISH TO DISCUSS "FORMS OF ECONOMIC AGGRESSION WHICH CREATE CONDITIONS WHICH BREED SUBVERSIVE MOVEMENTS."

3. THE EDITORIAL STATES THAT THE MEETING OBVIOUSLY WILL RAISE MATTERS OF GREAT INTEREST, SUCH AS WHAT SHOULD BE THE PRIORITIES OF THE HEMISPHERIC ARMED FORCES. MOVING TO THE URUGUAYAN SCENE, EL PAIS SAYS THAT THE URUGUAYAN MILITARY CHIEFS THROUGH THEIR COMMUNIQUEES HAVE VOICED CONCERNS WHICH SOULD FIND ECHOES IN CARACAS. IT CLOSES WITH A SUGGESTION THAT URUGUAYANS' OFFICIALS GET TOGETHER SO THAT THE NATION WILL HAVE, AS IT SHOULD, A SINGLE FOREIGN POLICY.

4 COMMENT: AT THIS POINT I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THERE ARE, AS EL PAIS IMPLIES, DIFFERENT CURRENTS WITHIN THE MLIITARY WITH RESPECT TO THE ARGENTINE-PERUVIAN APPROACH (WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN LEAKED TO EL PAIS BY THE MILITARY.) IN RETROSPECT CHIAPPE MAY HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR SUPPORT FOR A GROUP OBJECTING TO THE ARGENTINE-PERUVIAN APPROACH OR JUST HINTING TO ME THAT THE U.S. SHOULD CONTINUE TO HELP ITS FRIENDS IN URUGAY. IN ANY EVENT, THE IMPRESSION FROM HERE IS THAT THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVES TO THE CARACAS CONFERENCE WILL HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO ADDRESS THEMSELVES TO ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL QUESTIONS.

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